

an irreversible action that might prevent her from ever having more children, only to find out that the test was falsely positive and inaccurate.

A recent article in The New York Times outlined the inaccuracy of some prenatal diagnostic blood tests, which were very inaccurate. This may lead to potential life-changing medical decisions based on these false results. It is absolutely devastating.

If passed, the VALID Act would protect patients and save lives by ensuring Americans can rely on the test results they receive while also allowing leading-edge development and innovation to thrive in our hospitals and laboratories.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KATHY J. SACKMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Kathy J. Sackman, a pioneer in the labor movement, as well as a registered nurse and founder of the United Nurses Association of California/Union of Healthcare Professionals.

I had the honor of serving with Kathy when I was her political director for a number of years, and she was a nurse's nurse. She was a frontline nurse who worked in critical care units and saw that the adverse treatment of nurses led to worse outcomes for patients. She started in Pittsburgh and then moved to California, and she was a registered nurse in Fontana.

I asked Kathy simply one day, why did you start the United Nurses Association of California/Union of Healthcare Professionals? And she said simply, I saw that the nurses were being treated very differently, very differently than the doctors. We didn't even have dental, and they did. She said, it seemed small then, but it was something big because it represented just the fact that nurses, people that work in healthcare, didn't even get the proper benefits that they deserved. So they decided to organize.

That organization now is 32,000 strong, representing not only registered nurses but also nurse midwives. It is something that she left a living legacy that will continue for years to come.

One of the things that we tried to remind people, she told me, is that the wins that we have achieved tend to be forgotten over the years; that the pay for nurses; that the staffing ratio for nurses; that the way nurses are viewed today has always been so. And she said that that was not always the case. And that is why they fought to organize, they fought for their patients.

But she also understood that if you don't treat the nurses well, then the patients are not treated well. If you have 10 patients for one nurse, well,

there is no way that those patients can get the quality care that they deserve. So she led, as well as other nurses, for the fight for staffing ratios in California that have improved the outcomes for patients across not only southern California, where she started the Nurses Union, but throughout the entire State and the country.

One of the things that she was always proud of is that she always put members first, nurses first, the community first, the hospital first because she knew if the hospital did well, that the nurses would do well. If the nurses do well, patients do well. So this is something that was impressive.

Quick story: She reorganized a hospital, nurses at a particular hospital. And when we opened up the hospital's books, they were flat broke. Every night a creditor would swipe their bank accounts, take all the money that was owed to them, and they would never have enough money to put into patient care or to keep them whole.

So she made an agreement with the nurses; we are going to help save this hospital. She worked with the parent union of this union called AFSCME International, a Republican Member of Congress, a Democratic Senator, to get the bridge funding necessary to help that hospital stay afloat. It was a safety net hospital; and told them that once we get that hospital stabilized, their finances are better, and we can get your raise, then you will be pay more dues. At that point, they were only paying \$5 in dues. That is unheard of. But that is because she knew that in the end you had to get that hospital to a place that was financially stable; that was stable for the patient; and was stable for the people that worked there.

In the end, she helped save a hospital that was in a low-income community. It was a working-class community and the community that I grew up in, Riverside, California.

She will always have a lasting legacy as long as we continue to fight for patients, for nurses, and for our communities.

Madam Speaker, I just want to also mention that she is survived by two sons, Monty and Michael, and an extended family.

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, today, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise to honor three incredible women from central Washington.

Shannon Polson of the Methow Valley became one of the first women combat pilots in the U.S. military. After graduating from the University of Alaska ROTC, she was commissioned as an Army aviator and was one of the first women to fly the Apache attack

helicopter. She served two tours as an Apache platoon leader, and one as a company commander, deploying to three continents.

Kathy Bryson of Richland is the Pacific Northwest disaster response coordinator for the United Methodist Church. Kathy has provided the overall leadership for recovery from fire disasters in Okanogan and Whitman Counties over the last 2 years, as well as for the wildfire disasters in Oregon and northern California.

Kayla Barron of Richland was not only a member of the first class of women commissioned into the submarine community for the U.S. Navy as a submarine warfare officer, but is currently serving as mission specialist of the NASA SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station. In fact, just yesterday morning, she successfully completed a spacewalk. She has accomplished much since graduating from Richland High, and you can bet that we are all rooting for her every step of the way.

These women exemplify the very best of central Washington: Service to community, determination, integrity, and grit. They have paved the way for women in our communities and across the world. Their stories are an inspiration for all of us in central Washington, and it is a privilege to honor them during Women's History Month.

#### CONGRATULATING JARED BALCOM

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate National Potato Council's newly elected president, and fellow central Washingtonian, Mr. Jared Balcom.

Jared is the owner of a fourth-generation potato growing and fresh packing company, Balcom & Moe, based in Pasco, Washington, so he knows firsthand the challenges our central Washington producers face and how to best address them.

I have had the pleasure of working with and getting to know Jared over the years and know that he is well-equipped to advocate for the potato farmers who provide so many jobs and boost our local economy.

Congratulations, Jared, on this new role. I look forward to continuing to work together to advance our shared goals of modernizing water infrastructure, improving trade agreements, supporting agricultural research, and fixing our agricultural labor crisis.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF CLIFTON MALM

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor one of central Washington's veterans, Clifton Malm of Omak.

Clifton served our country honorably as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam and risked his life to protect his fellow servicemembers. His courage earned him a Purple Heart which, unfortunately, he never received until just now. While it may be just a small piece of metal, it represents what I believe is the gratitude of a truly thankful Nation.

Clifton, thank you for your service and for your continued dedication to